

Appln No.: 09/437,908
Amendment Dated: June 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

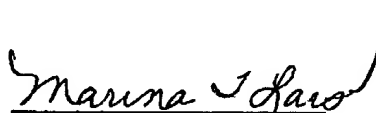
This is in response to the Office Action mailed March 24, 2005 for the above-captioned application. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended claims 60-65 to place them in form for allowance, in accordance with the Examiner's comments.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action in this case was improperly issued as an Ex parte Quayle action, because an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on May 21, 2005 in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(c)(2). This filing was prior to the mailing of the Quayle action, and as such the consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement without requiring the filing of an RCE is appropriate.

Furthermore, as a result of a recently issued German Search Report, additional references have come to Applicants attention. Accordingly, if the prosecution is reopened, Applicants request the opportunity to make a further submission under 37 CFR 1.97(c)(2) prior to the issuance of an Official Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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